An ACT *to diſſolve the Marriage of* Daniel Laſcelles, *of* London, *Merchant, with* Elizabeth Southwicke, *his now Wife, and to enable him to marry again, and for other Purpoſes therein mentioned.*

HUMBLY Sheweth and Complaineth to Your Moſt Excellent Majeſty, your true and faithful Subject *Daniel Laſcelles*, of *London*, Merchant.

THAT your ſaid Subject, on the firſt Day of *September*, One Thouſand Seven Hundred and Forty, was unwarily (when heated with Liquor) induced to be married to *Elizabeth Southwicke*, his now Wife, at an unlawful Time, and in a clandeſtine Manner, between One and Two of the Clock in the Morning, by and at the Houſe of one Mr. *Rider*, a Clergyman, in *Nevil's-Alley*, *Fetter-Lane*, *London*.

THAT ſuch Marriage was for ſome Time kept ſecret from your Subject's Father, *Henry Laſcelles*, of *London*, Merchant, with whom your Subject was then jointly concerned in Trade; but it being diſcovered, your Subject was immediately diſcharged by his ſaid Father, from being concerned jointly with him in Trade; and your Subject being informed and convinced, that the ſaid *Elizabeth* had, before the ſaid Marriage, entered into and lived in an unlawful Familiarity with *Henry Parminter* of *Lincoln's-Inn-Fields* Eſq; and having too much Reaſon to apprehend the Renewal thereof, your Subject, by the Advice of his Friends, left his ſaid Wife in *January*, 1740; and on his Father's Offer to maintain him abroad, quitted *England*, and went and continued in *France*, *Italy*, and other foreign Parts above two Years.

THAT when your Subject ſo parted from his ſaid Wife, in *January* 1740, he left her in Poſſeſſion of an Houſe in *Hatton-Garden*, with the Furniture and Plate therein, of the Value of £600 and upwards; and alſo of Jewels and other Things, of the Value of £400 and upwards; beſides a Loan of £500 which your Subject, at her Requeſt, lent on Bond to an Acquaintance of her's, and which has never been repaid, the Debtor being become inſolvent and a Bankrupt, but was moſtly diſpoſed of as ſhe deſired, and to anſwer her Purpoſes; whereby, and by Means of conſiderable Sums of Money and Allowances which the ſaid *Elizabeth* hath

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got from the Relations and Friends of your Subject, during his Abſence and ſince his Return, ſhe is more than ſufficiently provided for.

THAT on your Subject's Return to *England* about *February* 1742, the ſaid Marriage had as aforeſaid, being inſiſted upon to be valid, he was adviſed to go again abroad, to the *Eaſt-Indies*, to reſide there; but, whilſt he was preparing ſo to do, the ſaid *Henry Parminter*, on an Affidavit of a Debt from your Subject to him of £317 5*s*. for Jewels delivered to your Subject's ſaid Wife, and of £31 13*s*. for Wine and other Things furniſhed for her, procured a Commiſſion of Bankrupt to iſſue againſt your Subject; which Commiſſion, on proper Application and Payment or Depoſite of the Debts claimed, being duly ſuperſeded, your Subject, after being much harraſſed by ſuch Proceedings, went from *England* to the *Eaſt-Indies* about *February* 1742, and there continued, and did not return from thence 'till about *September* 1750.

THAT your Subject, from the Time he left *England* in *January* 1740, hath never converſed, or had any Intercourſe, with the ſaid *Elizabeth* his Wife; neither hath ſhe had any Child born of her Body ſince the aforeſaid Marriage; but hath again entered into an unlawful Familiarity, and carried on an adulterous Converſation, with the ſaid *Henry Parminter*.

THAT your Subject, on the 26th Day of *October* 1750, did obtain, in the Conſiſtory Court of the Biſhop of *London*, a Definitive Sentence of Divorce from Bed and Board againſt his ſaid Wife, for Adultery with the ſaid *Henry Parminter*; from which Sentence ſhe, for Delay, did appeal to the Arches Court of *Canterbury*; but, not proceeding on, and afterwards renouncing ſuch her Appeal, the ſaid Cauſe was, on the ſeventh Day of *May* 1751, remitted, and the ſaid Sentence ſtands in full Force.

THAT the ſaid *Henry Parminter* is now a Priſoner in the Fleet for Debt, and not capable to anſwer any Damages your Subject might recover againſt him, in an Action at Law, for criminal Converſation with the ſaid *Elizabeth*.

AND as your ſaid Subject's ſaid Wife hath, by her adulterous Behaviour, diſſolved the Bond of Marriage on her Part, and your ſaid Subject now ſtands deprived of the Comforts of Matrimony, and may be expoſed to have a ſpurious Iſſue to ſucceed him in ſuch Eſtate and Effects as he now is or may become entitled to, unleſs the ſaid Marriage be declared void and annulled by Parliament.

MAY it therefore pleaſe your Moſt Excellent Majeſty, out of your princely Goodneſs and Compaſſion to your ſaid Subject's Misfortune and Calamity, That it may be Enacted, And be it Enacted by the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty, by, and with the Advice and Conſent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this preſent Parliament aſſembled; and by the Authority of the ſame, That the ſaid Bond of Matrimony being violated and broken, by the manifeſt and open Adultery of the ſaid *Elizabeth*, be, and is from henceforth wholly diſſolved, annulled, vacated, and made void, to all Intents, Conſtructions, and Purpoſes whatſoever; and that it ſhall and may be lawful to, and for the ſaid *Daniel Laſcelles*, at any Time, or Times hereafter, to contract Matrimony, and to marry (as well in the Life-time of the ſaid *Elizabeth*, as if ſhe were naturally dead) with any other Woman or Women, with whom he might lawfully

lawfully marry, in Caſe the ſaid *Elizabeth* was not living; and that ſuch Matrimony when had and Celebrated, ſhall be a good, juſt, and lawful Marriage and Marriages; and ſo ſhall be adjudged, deemed, and taken to all Intents, Conſtructions, and Purpoſes; and that all and every Child and Children born in ſuch Matrimony, ſhall be deemed, adjudged, and taken to be born in Wedlock, and be Legitimate, and Inheritable to, and ſhall Inherit the Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, of the ſaid *Daniel Laſcelles*, and all other Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, from and by their Fathers, Mothers, and other Anceſtors, in like Manner and Form as any other Child or Children, born in lawful Matrimony, ſhall, or may Inherit, or be Inheritable unto, according to the Courſe of Inheritances uſed in this Realm, or in any of his Majeſty's Dominions thereunto belonging; and to have and enjoy all Privileges, Pre-eminences, Benefits, Advantages, Claims, and Demands, in as full and ample Manner, as any other Child or Children born in lawful Wedlock, may have or Claim by the Laws or Cuſtoms of this Realm, or of any of his Majeſty's Dominions thereunto belonging.

And be it further Enacted, That the ſaid *Daniel Laſcelles* ſhall be intitled to be Tenant by the Curteſy of the Lands and Inheritances of ſuch Wife or Wives as he ſhall ſo marry, and ſuch Wife or Wives as he ſhall ſo marry, ſhall be intitled to Dower of the Lands and Tenements whereof the ſaid *Daniel Laſcelles* ſhall be ſeized of ſuch Eſtate whereof ſhe or they ſhall be Dowable, as any other Husband or Wife reſpectively, may or might Claim, have or enjoy; and the Child or Children born in ſuch Marriage or Marriages, ſhall and may derive and make Title by Deſcent or otherwiſe to, and from any of their Anceſtors, as any other Child or Children may do, any Law, Statute, Reſtraint, Prohibition, Ordinance, Canon, Conſtitution, Preſcription or Cuſtom, had, made, executed or uſed to the contrary of the Premiſes, or any of them in any wiſe notwithſtanding.

And be it further Enacted and Declared, by the Authority aforeſaid, that all and every Child or Children, as well Male as Female, which at any Time, ſince the laſt Day of *January* 1741, hath or have been born of the Body of the ſaid *Elizabeth*, Wife of the ſaid *Daniel Laſcelles*, (if any ſuch there be) are Baſtards, and Spurious Iſſue, and not the lawful Iſſue of the ſaid *Daniel Laſcelles*, on the Body of the ſaid *Elizabeth* his Wife begotten; and that no ſuch Child ſo born, ſince the ſaid laſt Day of *January* 1741, nor any other Child or Children, which hereafter ſhall be born of the Body of the ſaid *Elizabeth*, now Wife of the ſaid *Daniel Laſcelles*, ſhall be deemed, taken, or reputed to be the lawful Iſſue of the ſaid *Daniel Laſcelles*, on the Body of the ſaid *Elizabeth* begotten.

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforeſaid, That the ſaid *Elizabeth*, ſhall be, and is hereby barred and excluded of and from all Dower and Thirds, and of and from all Right and Title of Dower and Thirds, or other Claim or Demand in, to, or out of the Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments, of the ſaid *Daniel Laſcelles*.

Provided, That nothing in this Act contained, ſhall extend, or be conſtrued to extend, to vacate or deſtroy any Proviſion made for the Maintenance, Support, or Benefit of the ſaid *Elizabeth*.

AN ACT

To dissolve the Marriage of Daniel Lascelles, *Merchant, with* Elizabeth Southwicke, *his now Wife, and to enable him to marry again, and for other Purposes therein mentioned.*

1st read 22d Nov.
2d read Ord. on 10th Dec. 1761